



The Great Freedom Fighter . . .

From Labor to Reward

JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL, daughter of Keiffer Albert Jackson and Lillie May Jackson, was born on January 2, 1913, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She was their second child, following Virginia; the other children were Marion (deceased), and Bowen Keiffer.

Educated in Baltimore's public schools, Juanita graduated from Douglass High School with honors in 1927. She subsequently attended Morgan College and the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from there with a Bachelor of Education cum laude in 1931. In 1935, she received her Master of Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1950 her Bachelor of Laws from the Maryland School of Law. While in graduate school, she led a student demonstration that desegregated the University's dormitories in 1935. From 1946 to 1950 while attending the University of Maryland Law School, she served on the editorial board of the **Law Review**.

She was admitted to practice law before the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, the United States Supreme Court.

In the true spirit of a freedom fighter, Juanita in 1931, co-founded the City-Wide Young People's Forum as a vehicle for raising the consciousness of Baltimore's downtrodden Black masses. One of the forum's primary responsibilities was finding jobs for Blacks during the depression. That activity was an early highlight of her life-long career as a civil rights leader. In 1933, she was a youth delegate to the NAACP's Second America Conference at the "Troutbeck" estate of Joel E. Spingarn. From 1935 to 1938, she was special assistant to Walter White, NAACP Executive Secretary, serving as National Youth Director and organizing and developing the organization's youth and college division.

She was an active member of the Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. Beginning in 1933, for three successive summers she traveled extensively throughout the country for the Bureau of Negro Work and the Department of Young People's Work of the church, speaking and teaching courses on Race Relations. She welcomed this work as a respite from her job as a vocational teacher from 1932 to 1934, in the Baltimore public school system.

In 1934, she attended the conference of the church's department of Epworth League and Young People's Work in Evanston, Illinois, where the National Council of Methodist Youth was organized. She was elected vice president of this new group. Two years later, she again took her crusade for justice to the National Council of Methodist Youth's second conference at Berea College in Kentucky.

On September 7, 1938, she and Clarence Mitchell, Jr., were married in the Sharp Street Methodist Church by Dr. W.A.C. Hughes. Mitchell was a former reporter for the Baltimore **Afro-American** and staff member in the Maryland Office of the National Youth Administration, he had just assumed a new job as Executive Director of the St. Paul Urban League in Minnesota. While in St. Paul, their first son, Clarence, III, was born. They returned permanently to Baltimore in early 1941. Their other children, all born in Baltimore, were: Keiffer Jackson, Michael Bowen, and George Davis Mitchell.

Mrs. Mitchell remained forever indebted to her mother for her inspiration as a civil rights leader. "She undergirded us. She was so happy we as young people were so active doing what she thought we ought to be doing." Her parents, she said, "taught me that education was a trust and we were to use it for the advancement of the cause of our people. We were taught to serve without expectation of reward. This is the rent we pay for living on the earth."

Consequently, she devoted her legal talents to the NAACP, serving as its Legal Redress Chairman.

Maryland was a Jim Crow state, so like its entire school system, its recreational facilities were segregated. To use the Druid Hill Park playgrounds, for example, children had to go a mile inside to an isolated area, where a swimming pool with a big fence around it was located. It was ugly and used to make young Juanita burn with anger as she watched the white children sunning themselves at the big, beautiful "white pool", from which she and her friends were barred. As Juanita later discovered, removing the racial barriers from such facilities was especially difficult because "there would be too much body contact, especially in swimming." There was a real fear that riots would occur if blacks and whites swam together in the same pool.

Nevertheless, she did file a lawsuit to desegregate the south beach on the bay at Sandy Point State Park, which was for whites. The black beach was a mud hole on the neglected eastern section of the beach. She was grateful that Milton "Buddy" Lonesome and other **Afro-American** reporters, while covering the story, served as investigators, providing the NAACP with information it needed for the case. She also filed a suit for the NAACP to desegregate the Fort Smallwood Municipal Park Beach and the swimming pools in Baltimore.



*The Mitchells
Juanita, Keiffer, Marion,
Lillie May and Virginia*

Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Esq.

In 1955, three years after Juanita had taken the first step in the U.S. District Court to desegregate the Sandy Point Beach, the Supreme Court upheld the Appellate Court by ruling that segregation at the state facility was unconstitutional, thus setting another precedent. A U.S. District Court judge had earlier ruled that the Supreme Court's decision in 1954 in the **Brown v. Board of Education** case did not apply, but the Supreme Court upheld the NAACP's point that the Fourteenth Amendment protections extended to state beaches and other recreation facilities as well as to public schools.

A few of the other notable actions in which Mrs. Mitchell served as counsel were:

— Lawsuits filed in 1953 to desegregate the Mergenthaler Printing School and Western High School; those actions enable Baltimore to become the first southern city to integrate its public schools after the Supreme Court handed down its **Brown v. Board of Education** decision.

— The **Robert Mack Bell v. Maryland** case that grew out of the arrest of students attempting to desegregate restaurants in Maryland between 1960 and 1964.

— The "Veney Raid" cases in which the NAACP asked the court to enjoin the commissioner of police in Baltimore from conducting mass searches of private homes without warrants; the case was won on appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals in September 1966.

Her numerous other involvements included serving as a member of the White House Conference on Children in 1940, and as a member of the White House Conference to Fulfill These Rights in 1966.

Locally, she directed a Citizen's March of 2,000 in 1942, on the State Capitol in Annapolis, that resulted in the appointment of the Governor's Interracial Commission, appointment of additional black policemen, and the investigation of police brutality.

She directed the first NAACP City-Wide Voter Registration Campaign in 1942, adding 11,000 new people to the rolls; and subsequent ones in 1957-1958, and in 1960.

She was co-chairman of the Mayor's Task Force Committee on Police Community Relations from 1965-67, chairman of the Model Cities Education Committee from 1968 to 1969, and co-founder of Freedom House in 1970.

Although segregation in Maryland did not completely end even after Congress passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the NAACP's repeated legal victories and the relentless protests by Juanita, her husband, her mother and other members of the family made the Mitchell name a legend in Maryland. As a result of the repeated court victories, she recalled, "the people began to think that the NAACP was God Almighty." She explained that her mother regarded the NAACP as "God's workshop" because "He doesn't want us to suffer discrimination. He's a spirit, and He's got to work through those of us who will give of ourselves and let Him work through us."

She never ceased to relish every moment of the years that the family sacrificed to the struggle. She was particularly proud of her sons' involvement, — "my boys," was her term. She felt that was "the most marvelous thing" about them — their dedication to public service. "My husband and I had an almost total commitment to the struggle for freedom. We were gone all the time, either at rallies or for court cases. We would meet at church meetings to organize the people. We had a sense of urgency.

Charles Hamilton Houston, the NAACP's first special counsel, "had helped to give us that sense, that a whole lot of these things we were tolerating happened only because Negroes themselves were not asserting their constitutional rights. So Clarence and I had this commitment of urgency, and of giving our all to the struggle. The most beautiful thing about our sons was that they never protested our total commitment. They never argued about it. They never rebelled at it. They came in and joined us as comrades in arms and helped us do it."

Among her numerous awards was her election in 1985, to the first Baltimore City Hall of Fame for Women by the Baltimore City Commission for Women.

In addition to her sister, Virginia and brother, Bowen, children, Clarence, III, Keiffer, Michael and George, Mrs. Mitchell is survived by: a "special daughter", Karleen Berthel; and her grandchildren, Clarence Mitchell, IV, Lisa Marie Mitchell, Michael Bowen Mitchell, Jr., Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr., Kelly Juanita Mitchell, Kathleen Jennifer Mitchell, Karla K. Mitchell, Lauren Ellis, George R. Mitchell, Jr., Micah M. Mitchell, Jennifer Cheryln Mitchell, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Shannon Mitchell and Sharon Mitchell; two great grandchildren, Malik Mitchell and Kyle Mitchell; daughters-in-law, Joyce Mitchell, Nannette Mitchell, Angela Mitchell, Raquel Mitchell, Clarice Wheatley and Cheryln Mitchell; three nieces, Christine Rucker, Lillie May Jackson and Barbara Polk; one great niece, D'Nai Gittings; two nephews, James Gittings and Daryl Jackson; three sisters-in-law, Elsie Mitchell, Anna Mae Gittings and Sarah Jackson; one brother-in-law, former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.



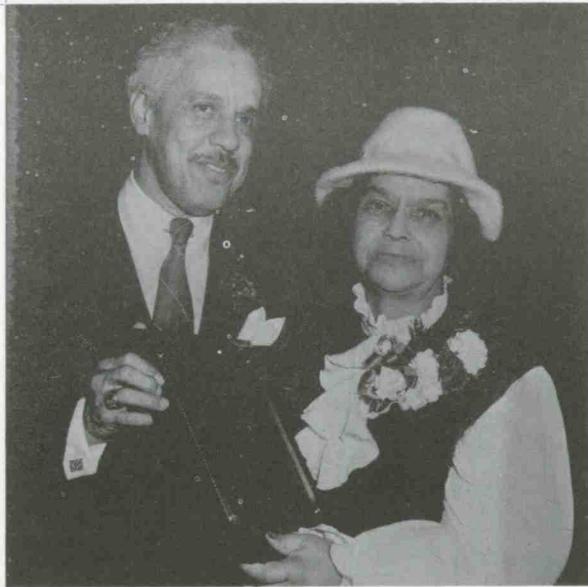
Freedom Fighters Together



*Two First Ladies
Eleanor and Juanita*



Gov. and Mrs. Harry Hughes of Maryland



Gov. Doug Wilder of Virginia



*Gov. William Donald Schaefer
of Maryland at the Mitchell Courthouse*



*Leaving Supreme Court with
Attorney George Hayes, following
arguments — Brown v. Board of Education*



*Mayor Tom Bradley of
Los Angeles*



The Mitchells of Maryland



*Karleen
and
Mama*



*Tallying the Votes
on Election Night*



*14-year old Freshman
at Morgan College*



*The 101st Senator
and
His Bride*

Juanita Jackson Mitchell

A Few of Her Numerous Legal Achievements . . .



Immediately following admission to the Maryland Bar in October of 1950, Juanita Jackson Mitchell Participated in several landmark Civil Right Cases. Mrs. Mitchell's considerable legal achievements include participation in the following: (1) suits begun in 1950 to eliminate racial segregation in municipal and state beaches and swimming pools, won in the U.S. Supreme Court on November 7, 1955; (2) Baltimore being the first southern city to integrate public schools after the U.S. Supreme Court's **Brown vs. Board of Education** decision of 1954; (3) restaurant desegregation cases for sit-in and (4) "Venev Raid" cases enjoining the Baltimore City Police Commission from conducting mass searches of private homes without warrants, won on appeal to the fourth circuit court of appeals in 1966.

The Honors were many. . . .

- Founder of the City-wide young people's forum (1913)
- Appointed to the White House Conference on children in 1940 by president Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Director of the 1942 Citizens' march on the State Capitol in Annapolis (1942)
- Director of the NAACP City-wide register and vote campaign (1942)
- Co-Chairman of the Mayor's Task Force Committee on Police relations (1965-67)
- Appointed to the White House Conference on fulfill these relations (1966)
- Delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention in (1968)
- Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree by Morgan State University (1984)
- Elected to the Baltimore City Hall of Fame for Women (1985)
- Board Member of the Maryland Institute for the Prevention and control of violence and extremist (1985)
- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (1985)
- The Everett J. Waring - Juanita Jackson Mitchell Law Society of Howard County (1985)
- Inducted into Maryland Women's Hall of Fame (1987)
- The Juanita Jackson Mitchell Scholarship Fund of the Monumental City Bar Association (1991)
- The Maryland Women's Bar Association (1990) First and only Honorary membership ever bestowed.

*Bunche, Dubois, Houston, White, Spingarn,
Johnson, Jackson . . . They Were All There!*



*Second Amenia Conference
August 1933*

Held at "Troutbeck", summer estate of Joel E. Spingarn, President of NAACP,
at Amenia, New York, to review programs and goals of NAACP.

Front row, seated L. to R. Dr. Ernest Alexander, N.Y.C., Ruth McGee, R. Virginia Alexander, Phila., Howard Shaw, Anna Arnold Hedgeman, N.Y.C., Sara E. Reid, wife of Dr. Ira De A. Reid, Pauline Young, NAACP, Wilmington Del., Frances Williams, Nat. YWCA, N.Y.C. unidentified.

Second row, seated L. To R. Hope Spingarn, daughter of Joel E. Spingarn, Hazel Brown, Professor, Louisville Ky. Municipal College, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Pres. City Wide Young People's Forum, Baltimore, Md. Vice Pres. National Council of Methodist Youth; M. Moran Weston, Episcopal Priest, N.Y.C.; Wenonah Bond Logan, Nat. Y.W.C.A., N.Y.C.; Joel E. Spingarn, Nat. Pres. NAACP, Prof of Literature, Columbia, Univ., N.Y.C.; Elmer A. Carter, Director, Nat. Urban League, Editor, Opportunity Magazine; N.Y.C.; Mabel J. Byrde of Chicago, Official in NRA, Wash. D.C.; Frank Wilson, Prof. Howard University, Wash. D.C.; Marion Cuthbert, Nat. YWCA, N.Y.C.

Third Row, L. to R. Standing, Dr. Ralph Bunche, Professor Political Science, Howard University, Wash. D.C.; Edward P. Lovett, Esq. Professor, Howard Univ. Law School, Washington, D.C.; Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Editor, The Crisis Magazine, Official NAACP organ., N.Y.C. Prof. Abram Harris, Howard University, Wash. D.C.; Dr. Charles Hamilton Houston, Dean, Howard Univ. Law School, Howard Univ. Wash. D.C., Mrs. Grace Nail Johnson, Wife of James Weldon Johnson; Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary, NAACP, N.Y.C., Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, Prof. Howard Univ. Wash. D.C., Prof. Sterling Brown, English Literature, Poet, Howard Univ. Wash. D.C.; Mrs. Lillian Alexander, N.Y.C.; Prof. Emmett Dorsey, Howard Univ., Wash. D.C.; Dean William Pickens, Director of Branches, NAACP, N.Y.C.; Mary White Ovington, Treasurer and Founder, NAACP, N.Y.C.; Dr. Ira De A. Reid, Sociologist, Nat. Urban League, N.Y.C.; James Weldon Johnson, former Exec. Secy., NAACP, professor, Fisk Univ. Nashville, Tenn.; Max Yergan, Nat. YMCA, N.Y.C.; Walter White, Exec. Secy., NAACP, N.Y.C.

Photo by Amy Spingarn, wife of Joel E. Spingarn.

First Amenia Conference was held at Troutbeck, summer Estate of Joel E. Spingarn in Amenia, N.Y., June, 1916, to set goals and programs of NAACP. James Weldon Johnson attended. In December, 1916, he received invitation from Joel E. Spingarn, President NAACP, to join staff of NAACP. He accepted and was made Field Secretary NAACP. He traveled making speeches, organizing branches of the NAACP, and working for the passage of the Dyer Anti Lynching Bill, in Congress. He resigned in 1928, and Walter White became the Executive Secretary.

Along This Way, by James Weldon Johnson,
Autobiography, published
October 1933, The Viking Press,
New York

This Lady Always Wore A Hat . . .



Sister Marion and Brother Bowen



*A Doctorate From Morgan
Judge Leon Higginbotham,
Juanita and Guion Bluford,
First Black Astronaut*

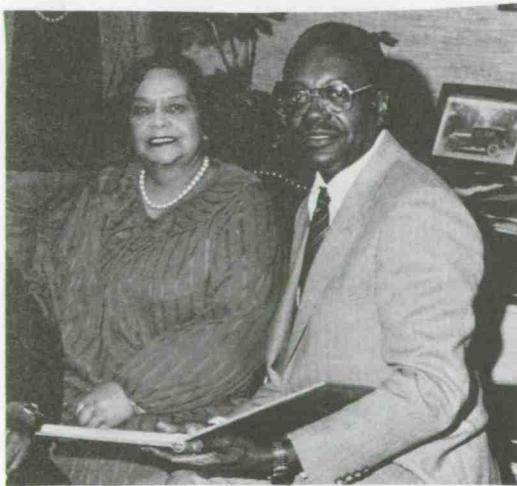
1950's – NAACP Counsel
Thurgood Marshall with local
Attorneys Harry A. Cole and
Linwood Koger, Jr. (standing left
to right, directly behind him) meet the
plaintiffs in Historic, Maryland
Civil Rights Cases



"My Boys"



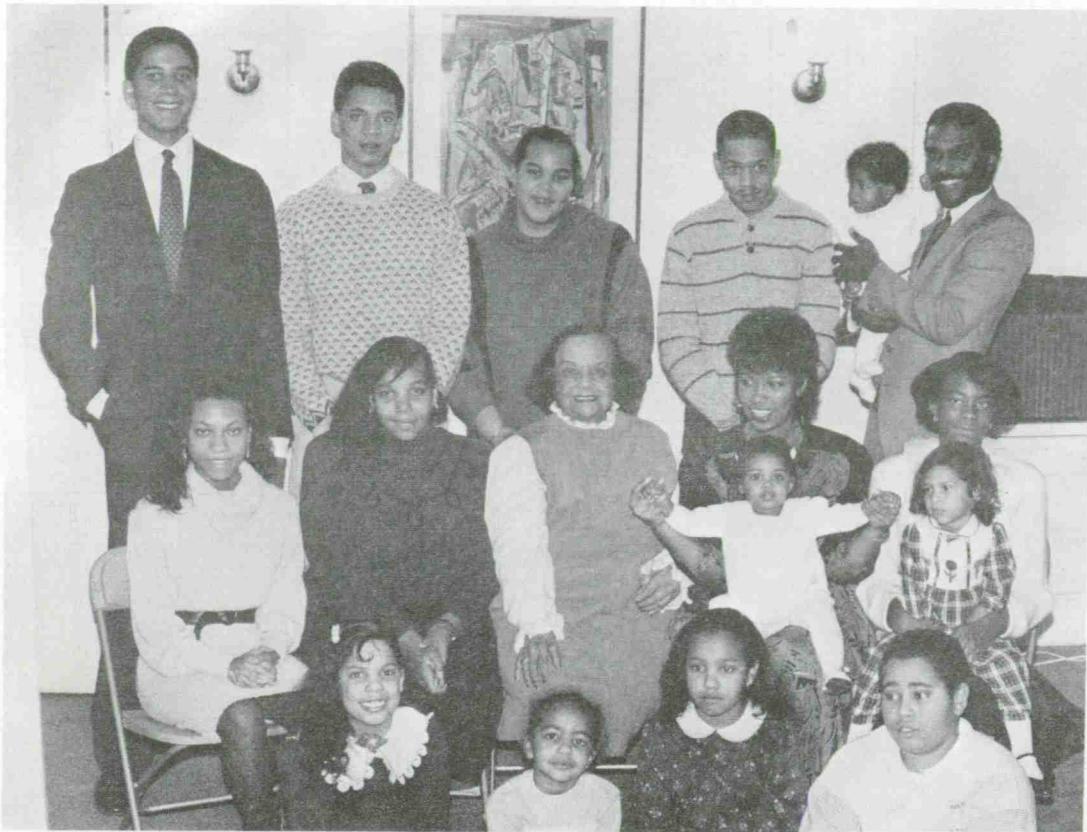
The Jacksons



With Husband's Biographer
Denton Watson



With Supreme Court Chief
Justice Warren Burger



The Mitchells of Maryland

The Grandchildren come Home for Christmas

*"You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth"*

"Kahlil Gibran"



*A Buss
from Dr. Carl*



*Uncle Parren and the Mitchell
sons at dedication of Clarence
M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse—
Baltimore, March 1985*



*A chuckle
from Ben Hooks
and Joe Rauh*

A Memorial Service

In Celebration of the Life of

Juanita Jackson Mitchell

Saturday, July 11, 1992 – 12:00 Noon

Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Rev. R. Douglas Force, Presiding

Special Service

Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Processional

Opening Hymn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Invocation

Rev. R. Douglas Force

Scripture Readings

Old Testament/Rev. R. Douglas Force

New Testament

Hymn "Listen To The Lamb" Choir

Tributes

Gov. William Donald Schaefer
Hon. Louis L. Goldstein
Hon. Benjamin R. Civiletti
Bishop Edward G. Carroll
Hon. C. Delores Tucker
Hon. Barbara Mikulski

Hymn

Morgan State University Singers
Dr. Nathan Carter, Director

Tributes

Hon. Kweisi Mfume
Hon. Mary Pat Clarke
Joseph Rauh, Esquire
Hon. Samuel T. Daniels

On Behalf of the Baltimore Clergy

Rev. Marion C. Bascom
Evangelist Frances Marshall
Rev. Marcus Wood
Rev. Harold Carter

Solo

Bowen Keiffer Jackson

On Behalf of the Judiciary

Hon. Robert M. Bell
Hon. Mabel Hubbard
Hon. Solomon Baylor
Hon. Robert B. Watts

Tributes

Hon. Larry Young
Comm. Edward Woods
Hon. Ruth Kirk
Hon. Agnes P. Welch
Dr. Flozella Clark
Dr. Flossie Dedmond

Hymn Choir

On Behalf of the Family

Hon. Parren J. Mitchell
Clarence M. Mitchell, IV
Lisa Maria Mitchell
Michael Bowen Mitchell, Jr.
Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr.

Benediction

Rev. Leon White

Closing Hymn "We Shall Over Come"

Morgan State University Singers

Recessional

Organist

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to:

The Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum
c/o ANTHONY M. CAREY, ESQUIRE
VENABLE, BAETJER AND HOWARD
1800 Mercantile Bank and Trust Building
Two Hopkins Plaza - Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Family and Friends will gather in the lower auditorium Fellowship Hall, immediately following service

*Board of Directors Baltimore
Branch NAACP*



*With Medgar Evers, Top
Far Right*



1937



1943



*Gloster B. Current, Charles
Hamilton Houston and
Roy Wilkins*



*An Award from
Councilwoman Victorine Q. Adams*



*1950-The Beginning of a
Brilliant Legal Career*



*Induction into the
Maryland Women's Hall of Fame*



Her beloved Husband and Sons



*Dr. and Mrs. Calvin (Virginia) Kiah
with cousin, Sister Mary Benigna*



With Afro Reporter Lonesome



*"Come and sing a simple song of freedom"
with son, Dr. Keiffer J. Mitchell
at service for Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr.
- 1984 -*



Planning the Strategy

Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Esq. 'Freedom Fighter'

JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL was the first Black woman to practice law in the State of Maryland; a Constitutional Lawyer, NAACP Youth Movement Founder and member of the Baltimore City and the State of Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Courage was her strong suit!

She possessed an unconquerable mind, soul and spirit.

She was a long distance runner on the road to freedom.

"I am a Freedom Fighter!" . . . This is how she wished to be remembered.

But more than that; she was a "Great Warrior" in the fight for freedom and justice.

Time, that earthly duration, was most precious to Juanita, who justly wished there was more of it — to do everything she wanted to do.

In the seventy-nine years prior to eternity, she used her precious time unselfishly.

She was cut to the cloth!

Her mother, Dr. Lillie May Carroll Jackson, a stalwart of the Baltimore and National NAACP loudly proclaimed "I Am Somebody", and always admonished her children to: "Be Somebody".

In 1889, at the age of six, her father, Keiffer Albert Jackson, witnessed thirteen "Colored" citizens shot to death by the KKK inside the courthouse in his hometown, Carrollton, Mississippi, and three years later saw three prominent "colored" persons left hanging from the trees, after being lynched on the lawn of the same courthouse.

To his dying day, he fought for equal justice under the law and instilled this burning passion in his family.

He produced movies depicting Blacks in positive roles and traveled throughout America with his family, exhibiting his films in churches and schools. He was a communications pioneer.

The Jackson children, Virginia, Juanita, Marion and Bowen, learned well from their parents.

Juanita, the middle daughter of the family was a pretty smart girl.

In 1927, at age fourteen, she graduated with honors from Baltimore's Douglass High School. At that time, Morgan College had not been accredited and the State Universities were not open to all.

Keiffer and Lillie sent her off to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where in 1931, she graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. degree in Education.

A year earlier, sister Virginia had graduated with honors from the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art; having been refused admission to the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore.

Mom and Dad had extracted a promise from them to return home and use their "First Class" education to help their people.

In depression-ridden, segregated America, they came home in 1931, to their commitment!

They found an inactive local NAACP Branch.

No Problem.

Virginia and Juanita formed the Citywide Young People's Forum, which for some, was too radical.

Meetings were held on Friday evenings at Sharp Street Memorial Church; and then, at "Mother" Bethel A.M.E. Church.

You could squeeze in and keep the faith with Walter White, Ralph Bunche, W.E.B. Dubois; and Mary McLeod Bethune, who came once a year and always attracted standing-room only audiences.

It was at a Friday Forum meeting that a life-time of love began.

A young reporter from the Afro-American Newspaper, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., and Juanita Jackson, Met.

As Clarence was to recall later: "The Spark Struck and the big objective became. . . How Do I Get This Girl?"

In the Jackson household, they didn't let the girls mix books with boys.

With a bit of ingenuity, Clarence solved that problem — "I passed as a book."

Dr. Lillie, later to become the catalyst in the rebirth of the Baltimore NAACP, was the Dynamic chairman of the forum's Adult Advisory Committee.

Juanita was named President of the Forum; and upon graduation from Pennsylvania Lincoln University, Clarence, Jr., became Vice President.

The Forum membership numbered over 500 young people, with a large choir and ushers. But they didn't just sign and listen to speeches.

"We engaged in direct action," Juanita stated.

Thousands of signatures were gathered on petitions demanding passage of Federal and State Anti-lynching Bill and that Blacks be hired as Social Workers, Policemen, Firemen, Store Clerks and be given Social and Economic Freedom.

The signatures on the petition were a technique the forum employed to get the people aroused and committed to the struggle. The first five Black Social Workers were hired.

Notable among their achievements was a "Buy Where You Can Work" campaign which resulted in the hiring of 40 Black clerks in the Northwest Baltimore A and P Food Stores.

Most notable, was the momentum the Forum created that led to the reorganization and revitalization of the NAACP in Baltimore and eventually, the State of Maryland.

NAACP National Secretary, Walter White asked Dr. Carl J. Murphy, publisher of the Afro and a National Board Member of the NAACP, to reorganize the dormant Baltimore Branch NAACP. Dr. Carl asked schoolmate Lillie Carroll Jackson to remantle the organization in Baltimore and Maryland.

Dr. Jackson was elected President of the newly organized Baltimore Branch NAACP and began a crusade from county to county, putting together a Statewide NAACP Conference. Her membership drive brought in over 2,000 New Disciples in Baltimore.

Daughter Juanita, who had received her Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, was dispatched to the National NAACP Convention in Oklahoma.

Long Distance Runner on the Road to Freedom!

She returned home to report that she had been successful in getting the 1936 NAACP Convention to be held in Baltimore. The battle was on!

The first significant results came the same year — 1935. Suit was filed in City Court to open up the Law School of the University of Maryland to Blacks. The case was tried in June and the courts ruled favorably.

In September of 1935, Donald Gaines Murray became the first Black Law Student at the University.

In January of 1936, the Court of Appeals upheld the Lower Court decision and Jim Crow was about to pack his bags at other State-Owned Graduate Schools in the South. In the same year, Juanita became Special Assistant to Walter White.

September 7, 1938, Clarence and Juanita wed. They were to share their love and commitment with four sons, Senators Clarence and Michael Mitchell; Dr. Keiffer Mitchell and George Mitchell.

The State school desegregation strategy was the brainchild of Charles (Charlie) Hamilton Houston, Chief Legal Counsel for the NAACP and a Professor at the Howard University Law School. One of his most promising students was a young man from Baltimore — Thurgood Marshall. They had the support of the now-strong Baltimore NAACP under the leadership of Doctor Jackson and the Activism of Juanita.

With the success in Maryland, Houston and his brilliant student Thurgood, now an Attorney, filed suit against University of Missouri and a Supreme Court ruling opened all State Educational Institutions in the South, in keeping with the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause.

This Educational Crusade through the Courts began in Maryland and was the forerunner of the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas Suit, which would outlaw all segregation in public and state owned schools. Houston, whose constitutional theories laid the foundation, died in 1950. His handpicked protege, Marshall (Retired Supreme Court Justice) turned down when he tried to enroll at the University of Maryland Law School, would now emerge victorious and the racial composition in the schools of America, would be changed forever.

The Citywide Youth Forum had been fused with the newly-activated NAACP, which under the leadership of "MA" Jackson and the support of Dr. Carl and the Afro, had become the voice of the people. Juanita had received her Law degree in 1950, and been admitted to practice as Maryland's First Black Woman Lawyer. Her brother-in-law, Parren J. Mitchell, Plaintiff in the successful suit to open the University Maryland Graduate School of Social Work, would later become Maryland' First Black Congressman (1970).

The City now had Blacks in Key Municipal Departments. Significantly, there were finally Black policeman, firemen and Judges. A Black Law Enforcement Officer, Bishop Robinson, came through the ranks and became the first person of color to become Police Commissioner. He is now the Secretary of Public Safety and Corrections.

The Jackson-Mitchells had helped win battles on the homefront, that set precedent in other parts of America. They refused to rest on their Laurels.

The War for Freedom still raged on!

Their commitment didn't stop at Jericho.

Then the good news came!

Fresh Troops were on Board, under the Leadership of a Georgia born Preacher, who had a pastorate in Montgomery, Alabama - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Bomb fell in Montgomery when a refined, gentle lady of color, refused to give up her seat on a bus. Rosa Parks was arrested.

Outraged Americans, Black and White, came together in what is called by some "The Rebirth of the Civil Rights Movement."

"Old" Warriors like Juanita and Clarence, knew that battles-won could never end the war or fulfill the American Dream.

They networked with this fresh troops and stood side by side with A. Phillip Randolph, when he orchestrated the March on Washington in 1963, when The Doctor spoke of his dream.

And after the dream was shattered on a balcony in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968, and after her beloved Clarence, Jr. laid his burden down in 1984, Juanita and son, Clarence, III were Alabama-bound to Selma, site of the Historic March for Freedom - To fight for nine Black Elected Officials, who were charged with crimes in Office. All nine were later vindicated.

Clarence M. Mitchell, III, won a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates in his first run for office - 1962. The Youngest Black ever elected to Public Office, four years later, he was elected the Maryland Senate, where he served for twenty-years. His National Legislative peers elected him to the presidency of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators for seven years.

Son, Keiffer, always supportive in the struggle, chose to keep the Freedom Fighters healthy. He graduated from the Meharry School of Medicine. He was her Chief Physician til the end.

Number three, Michael, followed Mom and Dad and became a Lawyer. He followed brother, Clarence into Politics and won election to the Baltimore City Council and the Maryland State Senate.

Youngest son, George, General Contractor and Real Estate Property Manager.

Juanita's sister, Virginia, who was also a co-founder of the Citywide Youth Forum, went on to become one of the most noted Portrait Artists in the World.

Baby Sis., Marion graced concert halls internationally as a Coloratura Soprano. She now awaits reunion with Juanita.

Little Brother, Bowen, was with "Ma" Lillie and Sister Juanita as Treasurer of the Baltimore NAACP. Now retired, he is a fine Artist, Singer, Pianist and plays for one of the Choirs at Sharp Street.

There was always music in the Jackson-Mitchell household.

Oh how they enjoyed the moments around the piano, with all of them able to play or sing.

One of their favorite songs spoke of their belief and faith:

*"His Eye Is On The Sparrow
And I Know He Watches Me!"*

